

(FORT LAUDERDALE)---- Congressman Allen West (R-FL) released this statement today honoring America's small businesses and reminding Americans to shop 'local' during the holiday season:

"The Saturday after Thanksgiving has officially been deemed "Small Business Saturday" and is a day America has set aside to support local businesses around the country. My wife, Angela, and I will certainly be shopping at our favorite local businesses this holiday season in South Florida and I encourage all Americans to do the same.

Small businesses, not government, are the economic engine that drives America. Congress must put the power back in hands of small business so they can use their resources to spur innovation and create jobs. As a proud member of the House Committee on Small Business, I am working to eliminate unnecessary and burdensome regulations, cut taxes, and reduce wasteful spending.

Right now, there are more than a dozen [House passed bills](#) sitting on Senator Harry Reid's desk- that if passed- would remove burdensome regulations on small businesses as well as provide incentives to encourage businesses to hire again. I call on Senator Reid to not waste anymore time and make these pieces of legislation a priority when he returns from the Thanksgiving holiday.

In the meantime, I encourage all Americans to seek out those small businesses this holiday, and put their money to good use by shopping at and supporting our local 'mom and pops'. The Small Business is the epitome of American innovation and ingenuity and America would not be the country it is today, and simply put, can not continue to be the great nation it is, without the success of our small businesses."

Small Business Facts:

There are an estimated 27.2 million small businesses in the United States and Small businesses create about seven of every ten new jobs and they employ just over half of the country's private sector workforce. Small businesses have generated 64% of net new jobs over

the past 15 years.

For a list of all of the bills the House has passed concerning small businesses, click [here](#).